

From: Matt Schultz
To: Microsoft ATR,microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,...
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Subject: <no subject>

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing on behalf of the electronics industry and the people of the United States, urging you to hang tough in the anti trust case with Microsoft Corporation.

None of you could imagine where the electronics industry would be right now, had it not been for Microsoft crushing anyone and everyone who had the audacity to think this was a free country. This industry would be vibrant right now, I'm convinced of it, and leading the whole country out of recession. Microsoft's dominance and dirty tactics have cost this nation billions of dollars of GDP and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

I cannot tell you how many times we worked with giant OEMs such as Hewlett Packard, Seagate, Maxstor, Storage Technology, Digital Equipment, LSI Logic, and others, on Windows OS drivers for peripherals, and each one of these firms - to a man - was (and continues to be) terrified of MSFT. They know what side their bread is buttered on. I saw the cancellation of dozens of projects in the 1990's because Microsoft simply wouldn't validate the drivers, favoring one company over another.

I understand that the Bush administration, due to it's war efforts against terrorism, would rather concentrate on that all important goal than to waste resources continuing the fight against Microsoft. The government has won it's case, but now it appears that akin to the giveaway of Eastern Europe after World War II, the US government wants to give this win away as well. I give MSFT executives all the credit in the world for keeping a straight face, as Larry Ellison put it.

But the economy needs this shot in the arm more than ever now, MSFT has strangled the life and innovation out of the computer industry for so long, it's now stagnate. We need desperately to have competition come back to the industry, so small firms with big ideas won't get wiped out. So MSFT can't deny the little guy interoperability with their stranglehold on the Industry anymore. To put Americans back to work and re-invigorate the industry, the US government and the States battling this anti trust violator must level the playing field. It's such an enormous uphill climb now.

Please do not allow MSFT to damage Apple Computer and the 25,000+ suppliers of Mac OS based peripherals and software. The current \$1 Billion "penalty" Microsoft will take out of petty cash and give to schools will do nothing but increase Windows market share in one of Apple's most dynamic markets.

The influx of Microsoft capital into the education market will inflict very

serious damage to Apple Computer and thousands upon thousands of small US companies that provide consulting services, peripherals, software, drivers, firmware, and other products that support the Mac OS now used throughout the US education system to a very large degree. Many companies will be forced out of business, many Americans will lose their jobs to Microsoft once again. Only this time, it will be government sponsored.

It is a market that Microsoft has targeted for many years and after falling short in their own efforts, it seems they have now partnered with the US Government and the States to win this lucrative market finally after a 15 year battle.

This deal has to have Dell, Compaq, HP and Gateway licking their chops as Microsoft has sadly duped the government very, very smoothly here. This penalty is a Trojan Horse; it will turn out to be a gigantic marketing ploy, damaging Apple's share tremendously in the education market, while boosting Microsoft's share for years and years to come. Microsoft should realize a return of more than 8X on the measly one billion they will put forth. Some slap on the wrist, folks.

What an incredible blunder by the government. Win an anti trust case and then hand over one of the last remaining non-Microsoft markets! Incredible! What a brilliant and resounding victory for Microsoft.

Stand tall, ladies and gentlemen. The whole industry is waiting for you good people to do the right thing.

Would it not be embarrassing to have the US Government & the States surrender to Microsoft, only to watch the European governments come to the aid and rescue of the US electronics industry? This could very well happen.

You have won the case in court! But you're losing it in the conference room.

Re-group, folks, and please focus on doing the right thing.

"Always do right; this will gratify
some people and astonish the rest."

--Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Best Regards,

Matthew J. Schultz
7985 S. Bemis Street
Littleton CO 80120 USA